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Message Text

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53
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SYE-00 SSO-00

/049 W
---------- 006395
O R 181740Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIER
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3878
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USSS WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
FBI WASHDC
NSA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0428

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, EGEN, OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.)
SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S TRIP - INTELLIGENCE

REF: STATE 036540

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS REFTEL:

A. NO DEMONSTRATIONS OR PROTEST ACTIVITIES ANTICIPATED DURING UNDERSECRETARY'S STAY IN ALGIERS. CONCERNING RECENT PROTEST ACTIVITY ON FEB 3 EMBASSY RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING THAT DEMONSTATION WOULD TAKE PLACE NEAR EMBASSY BUILDING; HOWEVER, NO DEMONSTRATION DID OCCUR. CHARGE WAS ALSO CAUTIONED FOLLOWING DAY TO TAKE NO UNNECESSARY RISKS. WE STILL UNAWARE OF EXACT REASON FOR WARNINGS, BUT TRANSITORY TERRORIST THREAT IS POSSIBILITY. SECURITY SITUATION HAS SINCE RETURNED TO NORMAL.

B. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON ANY TERRORIST GROUPS OPERATING WITHIN ALGERIA. ONE RECENT CONFIRMED EXAMPLE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY WAS PARTIAL DESTRUCTION BY BOMB OF LOCAL OFFICIAL PRESS OFFICE.
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THIS AIMED AT BOUMEDIENE REGIME AND UNRELATED TO US, AND MOUNTED FROM OUTSIDE ALGERIA, APPARENTLY IN FRANCE. TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE THERE ARE NO DISSIDENT GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD POSE SECURITY THREAT TO ROBINSON VISIT.

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C. POLITICAL CLIMATE IS STABLE AND CONTROLLED. REGIME HAS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO INTERNAL SECURITY MEASURES. GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IS HOWEVER TENSE IN CONNECTION WITH ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN DISPUTE OVER SHARA,AND GENERAL COUNTRY WIDE SECURITY MEASURES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN INTENSIFIED.

2. EXTENT OF PUBLICITY GOA INTENDS TO ACCORD ROBINSON VISIT UNCLEAR AT THIS POINT, BUT BEST GUESS IS THAT PUBLICITY WILL BE CONFINED TO AFTER-THE-FACT REPORTING ON IMPORTANT MEETINGS. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLICITY THUS FAR. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOA WILL BE MOST ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANY INCIDENTS IN CONNECTION WITH UNDER SECRETARY'S VISIT. IN TIGHTLY CONTROLLED SOCIETY THAT ALGERIA IS THESE DAYS, THIS OBJECTIVE MAY BE EASIER TO ACCOMPLISH THAN IN OTHER POINTS UNDER SECRETARY WILL VISIT.PARKER

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